



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CATHERINE R. McCABE  
*Commissioner*

## Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2019

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

### Council Members

**Present:** Zachary Lewis, Joann Held, Meredith Taylor, Amy Tuininga, Ted Carrington, Colandus (Kelly) Francis, Leilani Holgado, Monique Griffith

**On the Phone:** Melissa Miles, Yvonne Blake, Lloyd Abdul-Raheem, Kim Gaddy,

**Absent:** Andy Kricun, Gantry Fox, Demetrius Marlowe, Phyllis Reich

**OEJ Staff:** Riché Outlaw, Nadia Akbar, Heather Knizhnik

**DOH Representative:** Barbara Goun

**DEP Guests:** Debbie Mans, Kerry Pflugh, Brad Bollen, Olga Boyko, Luis Lim, Mike Gordon, Carrie Sargeant, Ken Ratzman, Lloyd Naideck, Jeff MacMullen, Brandon Carreno, Davon McCurry, Allison McLeod, Christine Schell, Peg Hanna

### Call to Order

Chair, Zachary Lewis, opened the meeting at 10:10am.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kelly Francis moved that the minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting be approved as amended. Monique Griffith seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

### Working Group Updates

#### Land Workgroup (Meredith Taylor)

Meredith presented the findings and recommendations from the Urban Agriculture Symposium hosted by EJAC on October 13, 2017 which have been assembled into a White Paper. Issues identified in the White Paper include:

- Healthy Food Access and Environmental Justice
- Urban Farming Opportunity and Environmental Justice
- Systemic Policy Barriers
  - Policy Context
  - Land Access / Land Tenure

- Information / Training & Technical Assistance

The following recommendations were identified as high priority issues by urban agriculture practitioners, advocates and other community stakeholders who attended the symposium:

1. Establish an Urban Agriculture Task Force within the NJ Department of Agriculture.
2. Allocate resources for urban agriculture via existing open space, remediation, redevelopment, or restoration funds.
3. Provide more training and technical assistance opportunities for urban agriculture practitioners.
4. Incorporate urban agriculture into local and state master planning documents.
5. Encourage greater cooperation and coalition building among the different stakeholder groups.

It is expected that the White Paper will be finalized in about 3 weeks. It will be posted on the EJAC Web Page and also the Rutgers Office of Urban Extension & Engagement Web Page. Debbie Mans offered assistance from NJDEP to further spread the word that this work is available.

#### Environmental Education and Outreach Workgroup (Monique Griffith)

*Gov Delivery:* This is the system that is being considered as a vehicle for sharing information with the Environmental Justice community. It is already being used within NJDEP by Fish & Wildlife and Parks & Forestry. It allows people to sign themselves up for notices (i.e. subscribe) and to select the topics that they are interested in.

*Community Corner (aka “What’s in my Neighborhood?”):* Brad Bollen presented the latest version of this new webpage that has been under development by the Air Program. The first screen shows the major permitted facilities. Zooming in makes smaller facilities visible. They plan to add an “About” Widget with a User Guide and perhaps a glossary. Wind speed and wind direction data may also be added. Luis Lim discussed the possibility of adding information from the Air Monitoring Network to the Community Corner.

#### Air Workgroup

*Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI):* Debbie Mans & Peg Hanna provided an update on the TCI. The program is in the design phase this year. On May 15, the Georgetown Climate Center will be hosting a workshop in Newark to explore equity issues related to TCI.

*S1700:* Riché Outlaw announced that revisions to this bill have been circulated to EJAC members and comments are due by the end of the day.

#### **EJAC Membership**

##### Election of Officers

The floor was open for nominations for new EJAC officers. The following nominations were made:

Chair: Leilani Holgado nominated Monique Griffith. Seconded by Melissa Miles

Vice-Chair: Joann Held nominated Kim Gaddy. Seconded by Ted Carrington.  
Secretary: Amy Tuininga nominated Joann Held. Seconded by Monique Griffith.  
A voice vote was taken for each Officer. All present voted in favor of the nomination each time.  
Terms will begin at the June EJAC meeting.  
Riché Outlaw thanked Zach Lewis, the out-going Chair, for his leadership over the first two years of the Council. Zach acknowledged the excellent work of the Workgroups.

### Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies on the Council left by the departure of Zenobia Fields and James Horne. James Horne was filling a County/Regional position and Zenobia was a Metropolitan Planning Representative.

Jeff Perlman, a colleague of Zenobia Fields at NJTPA, has expressed interest in joining EJAC as a non-governmental representative. Joann Held made a motion to nominate Pearlman, with a second by Yvonne Blake. All present approved. The nomination will be forwarded to Commissioner McCabe, requesting that she appoint Perlman to the Council.

Regarding the other vacancy, we have 3 resumes on hand, but they are all for representatives in the Academic Sector or Industry Sector, and this vacancy is in the County/Regional Sector. The Executive Board recommended that we wait and the full council concurred to nominate until we have potential candidates in the correct Sector.

Riché noted that our Bylaws are silent on procedures for filling vacancies. OEJ is drafting text that the Council may consider to amend the Bylaws so that going forward a well-defined process may be followed.

### **Executive Order 23**

The comment period on the EO23 Guidance document closed on March 22. Over 200 comments were received and are being reviewed by OEJ staff.

### **DEP Update Newsletter**

Riché Outlaw reported that OEJ Staff will be preparing a newsletter for EJAC containing DEP updates so that this information can be conveyed more efficiently and will take less time at Council meetings.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

### **Next Meeting**

June 11, 2019 at 10am in the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.